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## THE SPELLING BEE

Many a speller of mature years—perhaps writer, thinker, business man, stenographer—has stumbled into error when trying to put "battalion" on paper. That is a word, mates, fit to tumble a king. Look it up in the dictionary, close the big book, walk three times around the desk, and then—look it up in the book once again! Has it one "t" and two "a's" or two "t's and two 'a's", or has it what it happens to have, two "t's" and one "a"?

One easily is inclined to take up the cudgels for simplified spelling when contemplating such a word, and we are quite sure all spelling bee fans think the same way about it. For instance, such a word as "battalion" can be simplified—so far as its spelling is concerned—in a manner to make its spelling easy ever afterward. Let its pronunciation go hang for a moment and regard it as "batta-lion." This suggests battling a lion on the head. There are thousands of difficult words which can be treated in much the same way. It is easy to work up quite a system with the English language in this respect. Something of the sort is being done with subnormal pupils. It is understood, who are given the benefits of "fonetic" spelling also. Of course, nobody admits he is subnormal until he begins to wrestle with the dictionary, and then only in private, keeping his friends and acquaintances in blissful ignorance of the true state of affairs.

An article by a leading educator published a week or so ago was to the effect that the effort required of youth in English-speaking countries to master the intricacies of spelling is the equivalent of two years of application; in other words, that it requires two years to learn to spell if nothing else were being studied at the same time. As much beside spelling is studied during that period the gruelling period of mastering this subject is spread over longer years. This educator, therefore, favored a simplification of the spelling system, but admitted it was like trying to move a mountain to change it, so firmly imbedded is our archaic system in the language. Naturally, it is easy to agree with the educator and at the same time favor doing nothing about it. That is the attitude of all of us take; dictionaries are cheap and everybody owns one or several.

Girls have won the chief honors each year. But this is "as usual." The girls apply themselves to the job with greater avidity and are less inclined to permit distractions to hold away. They also reach maturity at an earlier age and this tells in their mentality.

The spelling bee stimulates proficiency in one of the fundamental angles of education and the result unquestionably is reflected throughout the entire public school system. The fact that the chief speller of the schools stood alone only after such a tricky word as "battalion" was reached indicates a high state of proficiency. Probably half the doughboys who went in battalions to France didn't know how to spell this word.

## THE WASHBOARD BOULEVARD

News from Berlin is that optimism reigns supreme. This desirable quality can be shared by citizens of New Britain also—all those who have occasion to use the "wash-board boulevard." For bids are to be opened May 21 for the reconstruction of the Beech Swamp road—which is the formal title of the washboard which for years has masqueraded in the nature of a highway between this city and the neighboring community.

Thus the recent survey of the highway by the state has not been in vain. When surveyors appeared along the highway keen interest was aroused; some Berliners got quite excited. Hope that the survey would be followed by action was universal,

but the cautious preferred to wait before starting a celebration. Words fall in an attempt to condemn the washboard pike. It has been looked upon as a disgrace for years and there has been much unfavorable comment regarding how the state has ignored this essential stem between the two municipalities. If the delay is to be terminated, glory to Mr. Macdonald and all his works until that job is completed.

## INCENDIARY FIRES

There must be some folk in New Britain who are not yet aware that arson is a very serious offense, and that if caught the resulting punishment is designed to be highly salutary. There is no patience shown in the community, in the courts, anywhere, with those who commit this crime.

Two fires in the northwestern section of the city are believed to have been started by the hand of man bent on mischief. A large barn and a printing plant, in which a Polish weekly was published, were burned within a few hours of one another. The factional dispute within the ranks of some of our Polish citizens has gone too far; it long ago went past the bounds of reason. It is unchristian and a commentary upon how foolish men may become in trying to settle differences which, when analyzed, do not amount to much.

Our advice is to get together in a brotherly spirit. Let not anger be cultivated where the spirit of love, friendship and good will would be appropriate.

## THE BLACK ROCK SPILL

If there had been a staunch concrete wall around the approaches to a first class bridge in place of the present dilapidated span at Black Rock such an accident as that which occurred yesterday would have been next to impossible.

But because the railings along the side of the approaches are not strong enough to withstand even the most moderate of shocks, anything is likely to happen at the bridge. It is easy to say that drivers, when attempting to negotiate the sharp turn from West Main street into Burrill street, should "be careful." Things go wrong with automobiles at times, especially on sharp curves; and that happened yesterday. Making the curve, even under the most propitious of circumstances, is quite breath-taking when one realizes that a steep incline is to one side, and protected by nothing more formidable than loose and weak planks. The Black Rock bridge, as it is at present constituted, is not only one of the worst eyesores in the city, it is likewise a danger spot. The city is making another effort to have the railroad co-operate with the city in providing a decent structure. The work by no means should be longer delayed. Mayor Weld can do nothing more inclined to shed honor and glory upon his administration than to insist that the present assortment of planks is done away with and a new concrete structure erected in its place.

## RAISING PRICE OF OIL

Autoists who have been congratulating themselves upon enjoying a reasonable price for gasoline no doubt are looking with extreme disfavor upon the agreements being entered into by various oil producing companies to limit the production of crude and thus raise prices. Twenty concerns operating in the great Seminole oil fields of Oklahoma have agreed to limit production, and as the Seminole field is responsible for the oversupply of crude, the effect upon prices at the filling stations will be soon and definite.

It is clear that assurances were received in Washington that there would be no prosecution under the anti-trust law. The oil companies have made the gesture that they are interested in "conserving" the supply; at the same time one of their leading officials declared that the price of oil had no effect whatever upon the consumption of gasoline; that people with autos pay whatever is asked.

With those statements in mind it does not require the imagination of a genius to determine that the only thing the oil companies are interested in is the highest possible price for their product. They are not and never have been interested in "conserving" the oil supply.

Now they have agreed to limit the supply, and are in the same class with bricklayers, if any such there be, who agree to lay only so many bricks a day in order to make the building jobs last longer.

The oil companies, of course, are headed by gentlemen who strongly oppose such tactics—in the case of bricklayers.

## FINANCE IN THE SOUTH

In New England a company capitalized at \$40,000,000 had run into financial difficulties the incident would have been held up as an indication that New England is going to the dogs.

Down in Georgia, where many New England industries have found sustenance and a grand welcome, such things occur. So far as we are

aware they are not occurring in New England. Southern papers have been full of the financial difficulties in which the Adair Realty & Trust company of Atlanta has found itself, necessitating a radical reorganization of this \$40,000,000 corporation. The concern is one of the largest of the kind in the south, if not the largest, and its difficulties are said to have been due to a preponderance of loans and a slowed up market. There can be no doubt that the new concern wrought out of the old will function satisfactorily; but the point is, there were financial difficulties of serious proportions and they were due to conditions in the south, where nearly all of the company's investments had been made.

When to this financial eruption is added the failure of numerous banks in Georgia and Florida recently, and the general business setback in the latter state, comparisons with New England can be made with no possibility of reflecting upon conditions in this tier of north-eastern states. Southern textile mills, the cause of much boasting until recently, are not doing so wonderfully well this year, while in New England the textile industry is at least improving.

Conservative management in New England has its good features. We have \$40,000,000 institutions, but they are so carefully managed that they can get over a period of depression, if any ever arrives, without difficulties. This has been proven time and again. In the south things are so managed as to go well during a boom and then they go all wrong when the flattening out process starts.

## FORD CONFIRMS IT

For months rumors were printed in the public prints that the Ford Motor company would turn out a new model this year. Each time the rumor was officially denied. Mr. Ford himself, on several occasions, emphatically declared there was "nothing to it," and that the popular flivver would continue chugging in the future as it has in the past.

Now comes the official announcement that all the erstwhile rumors were correct—that a new model would be put on the market; and that Mr. Ford himself was the designer. "Of course, our engineers have been fussing with new plans," Mr. Ford was quoted some months ago—the words are as we remember them, perhaps not verbatim, "but we won't let them do this work in order to give them something to do." Make your own comments.

## AIRING THE CHAPLIN CASE

Although Mrs. Charles Chaplin has been considerably criticized for what is termed her desire to obtain some of the money of the film comedian, there is something to be said in her favor when she expresses the desire to have all the cards laid on the table in the Chaplin tangle. She has had all the publicity she wants, she has said in effect; now let the comedian get some of it. According to the wife, he has been able to prevent much undesirable publicity from seeing the light of day by taking advantage of legal technicalities.

Her idea is to have a public hearing, at which charges relating to his alleged love affairs with "at least seven other women" could receive an adequate airing. We rather think that the comedian get some of it. According to the wife, he has been able to prevent much undesirable publicity from seeing the light of day by taking advantage of legal technicalities.

Chaplin has been a film institution for many years. Millions of people have admitted his style, his antics, and some have gone so far as to call him an artist. The private life of a public character is of some moment to the public, especially after a scandal has broken over his head. It is stated that Chaplin films are not as popular as they once were; that an increasing number of film patrons do not relish seeing people in the films whose private lives are not of a type to please women and children. Will Hays, czar of the movies, has stated more than once that the Hollywood article must be presented by impeccable persons and that the entire influence of the moving picture industry would be concentrated toward that end. With what success, however, nobody knows.

The attitude of the public toward film stars should be salutary to Hollywood. There is a point beyond which decency recoils, even in this day when the people are supposed to be more liberal-minded and lenient than they ever were before. The time may never come when all public characters will have to live lives of angelic purity; but they must be outwardly O. K. and not be identified with public scandals. Of these there have been too many in filmdom.

## FLAG REPLACES BILL

Trenton, N. J., May 20 (AP)—The old time practice of calling the legislature into session by ringing the bell is perpetuated in the custom today of flying the American flag on the state house only while the legislature is sitting, and on holidays and special occasions.

## Facts and Fancies

Friends are those who gossip about you for pleasure instead of vengeance.

Strange how timid sheep are, when a sheepskin does so much to stiffen the backbone.

Maybe it was a mistake to write the laws. The unwritten one alone gets universal recognition.

Save the pennies and you'll always think in terms of pennies while the other fellow juggles millions.

The world is growing better. You'll find a much higher type of people in jail now.



Yet the holdest realist will fake when shown a new infant and asked what he thinks of it.

But if you cling fast to the progressive ideas you have now, somebody thirty years from now will call you a darned old conservative.

The wicked provide their own undoing. Much reading of naughty stuff takes away the ability to get a kick out of it.

Still, it takes a lot of nerve in some instances to say man "developed" from the ape.

Americanism: A conviction that you alone have a right to be a fool driver.

The difference between service and service is this: In one case you help a man who needs it; in the other you bother a man who wishes you would go to blazes.

Some people still enjoy shooting galleries and some get to practice on those suspected of having liquor.

It may be that women weep less. There's no sense in crying for someone when you've got the whole works.



You can tell when your cold is getting better. You no longer wonder why in thunder you married that woman.

A free people is one that willingly passes laws to make itself behave in spite of all it can do.

Humanity will be more respectable when the crowd razes the temple for a bad decision in favor of the home team.

It's a bad outlook, though, when the news value of a murder depends on the oddity of the weapons used.

It seems clear enough now that much of the political eloquence of the old days was in the hooch the audience had.

Correct this sentence: "My wife's grandfather was a general," said he, "but she never tells anybody."

## 25 Years Ago Today

The second game in the Factory league was played yesterday. Hart & Cooley defeated North & Judd by 14 to 9. Gates was the winning pitcher. Hoar and Lewis were the pitchers for the losers.

The affairs of Co. E were probed into by a military board last evening. The board sat behind closed doors, but the windows were left open and a crowd gathered below to hear what was said. It was plain that the captain was on the grill. First Lieutenant Hanford L. Curtis was the first witness called. He was followed by Sergeant Burton C. Moroy, who charged the captain with snobishness. The other sergeants and corporals were also called to testify. All witnesses were asked who had given out news of the company affairs to the newspapers, and all who had gathered beneath the window heard the judges warn the soldiers that there would be an inquiry if anything regarding the hearing reached the papers.

An examination for the position of chief of the revenue cutter service will be held on June 1. For details, apply to Dr. R. M. Clark.

A balky horse caused considerable fun yesterday in front of Dr. Coolidge's residence on West Main street. He sat down and refused to go until his owner unbuttoned him. Then he essayed to run away and dragged his owner several yards.

"Fair Play" writes to the Herald protesting against the raid the other night on a private dwelling and the seizure of liquor. He asks if it is fair to the man, who loses his beer, or to the dealer, who loses his bottles. Prosecuting Attorney Kirkham informs the Herald he does not know whether to prosecute in the case or not.

A case of small-pox has been discovered in Plainville, on West Main street in the "Poverty Hill" district. Dr. J. N. Bull, health officer, is in charge and says he will not desert the family. He urges immediate and general vaccination.

City Clerk Thompson said yesterday that 26 building permits have been issued so far this month, the work totalling \$75,000. F. & F. Corbin is rebuilding its foundry, North & Judd is adding to its plant, and the new Polish and St. Mary's churches are being erected.



Send all communications to Fun Shop Editor, care of the New Britain Herald, and your letter will be forwarded to New York.

WE SHOULD THINK THEY'D LIKE THE CHANGE, FOLKS!

A summer White House in demand? We'll bet the "First folks of the land"

Would like our Fun House for their stay. We'd like to ask 'em, anyway!

INFORMAL

Ramsey: "How did you happen to meet her?"

Donald: "I happened to eat out of her spoon while the train was rounding a curve!"

WHEN BLACK IS READ

Is There a Second? New Minister M. F. J. Along about the end of May There come our Decoration Day;

I move another holiday— Along about this time let's say Interior Decoration Day!

Help! Help!

"We don't need any help just now." He heard the stern boss yell; And Andy said (the boy was bright): "I wouldn't be much help!" —Mother R.

Howard

I've never seen my pancreas And yet somehow I know That it is striving for my good Somewhere inside, below.

And so I treat it with respect And shield it from all hate And NEVER, while I'm fishing, think Of using it for bait! —Ralph W. Froelich.

NOTHING NEW

Agent: "Can I interest you in a loose-leaf encyclopedia?"

Jameson: "All our books are loose-leaf. We have a baby!" —B. R. Bachrach.

GOD IS JUST!

Dear Mr. F.: My mother-in-law is pretty well off so, when she was taken very sick a month ago, I promptly suggested to my wife that we take her to our home.

I lowered every attention on her and she read and to her, held her hand and served her meals myself. "Charles," she said, "you've been so good to me. I never thought you liked me. But you've shown me different. I'm going to leave everything to you."

That night the doctor said she had taken a turn for the better. In a week she was well.

"Charles," she said, "I couldn't bear to think of leaving your home you've been so good to me. I'll stay here from now on."

Oh! Ours!

THAT WAS MY UNLUCKY DAY!

Dear Mr. Juddell:

My wife had been talking up the culture of her Aunt Hester, who was coming to visit us. She had succeeded in making me terribly uncomfortable. I looked forward to two weeks of polite misery.

The thing was especially unfortunate because my Uncle Walter, a kind but rather erratic old fellow, had just visited us and had made some pretty bad breaks.

On the first night of Aunt Hester's visit, I remarked, "Mr. Roosevelt is certainly a hellacious president."

"Roosevelt?" said Aunt Hester. "You must mean Mr. Taft."

Twitching Grasshoppers!

THAT WAS MY UNLUCKY DAY!

—Arthur C. Hopkin.

What She Does

Betty: "I hear that Irene got married again."

Sylvia: "Yes, she has been married a dozen times!"

Betty: "Doesn't she tire of carrying orange blossoms so often?"

Sylvia: "Certainly. Now she only uses an atomizer and sprinkles orange juice over herself!"

—Geraldine F. Gifford

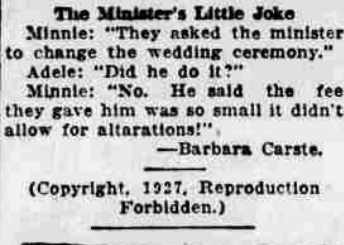
Weighting At The Altar

Billings: "I heard that Jolly Marie was married the other night. She weighed 320 pounds and she married a man weighing 415 pounds."

Henderson: "I imagine coming up the aisle they made a pleasant picture."

Billings: "Picture? Oh, yes—The Big Parade!"

—Margaret McGinn.



The Minister's Little Joke

Minnie: "They asked the minister to change the wedding ceremony."

Adele: "Did he do it?"

Minnie: "No. He said the fee they gave him was so small it didn't allow for alterations!"

—Barbara Carste.

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QUESTIONS ANSWERED

You can get an answer to any question of fact or information by writing to the Question Editor, New Britain Herald, Washington Bureau, 1322 New York Avenue, Washington, D. C., enclosing two cents in stamps for reply. Medical, legal and marital advice cannot be given, nor can extended research be undertaken. All other questions will receive a personal reply. Unsigned requests cannot be answered. All letters are confidential.—Editor.

Who were the Molly Maguires?

A. A secret society that terrorized the coal regions of eastern Pennsylvania (1867-77), committing many murders and other outrages until broken up by the conviction and execution of several of its ringleaders. The name was given to them because their warning and threatening letters were signed "Molly Maguire". The original society of this name was a secret society of Ireland (1843), organized to resist encroachments by landlords and derived from the fact that the members disguised themselves in women's clothing.

Q. Where was the first steel bridge built in the United States?

A. The St. Louis arch bridge built in 1874 by Eads was the first steel bridge built anywhere.

Q. Who invented the hydraulic lock for canals?

A. The invention in 1841 of the simple hydraulic lock is claimed for two Italian engineers and also for a French engineer. After the invention the building of canals flourished in many countries, especially in France and Italy. Canal locks were used in Holland and Italy in the 15th century.

Q. How is rock salt obtained?

A. It is mined, chiefly in Louisiana.

Q. What were the dates of the Sung Dynasty of China?

A. It was founded in A. D. 960 by Chao Kwang-yin, a descendant of a family of officials of the Tang dynasty (A. D. 618-907), who had been a high military command. The dynasty was overthrown in 1279 by Kublai Khan and his Mongols.

Q. Can a person withdraw his first citizenship papers if he decides not to become an American citizen?

A. A lapse of seven years from the time first papers are received without applying for second papers makes them invalid.

Q. Which has the greater area, Europe or the United States?

A. Europe has an area of 3,736,000 square miles or approximately one-fourth greater than that of the United States exclusive of Alaska.

Q. If the population of the world was concentrated in the state of Texas how much ground would each person have?

A. The area of Texas is 26,896 square miles which would allow each person in the world to have 4,184 square feet or about one-tenth of an acre.

Q. When was Mrs. Rogers hanged in Vermont? How many women have been hanged in the United States since then for murder?

A. She was hanged on December 8, 1805. Since then 8 other women have been executed in the United States for murder.

Q. What is the capital of Brazil?

A. Rio de Janeiro.

Q. Is standard time used in all parts of Africa?

A. Various parts of Africa have standard time. In the unexplored

regions and the remote parts of Africa, sun time is used by the natives, so far as they have any system at all.

Q. Do wolves suckle their young?

A. Yes.

Q. How are baseball batting averages determined?

A. To determine batting averages, divide the total "times at bat" into the total number of base hits. The length of the hits, whether they be singles, doubles, triples or home runs, does not affect the average.

Q. Who discovered the Azores Islands and what nationality are the inhabitants?

A. The islands were discovered by the Portuguese navigator Gabral in 1431. The people of the islands are mainly of Portuguese descent, but have a blend of Moorish and Flemish blood because of the Flemish settlers introduced there by Isabella of Burgundy in 1456. The islands for some time were known as the Flemish Islands.

Q. Is a swimmer supported better in deep water than in shallow water?

A. When swimming in four feet of water, the swimmer knows that, at the first sign of fatigue, he can rest by standing up in the water, whereas if the water is deep he must make an effort to keep afloat. He is, therefore, led to believe that deep water swimming is easier. The volume of water which the body displaces in either shallow or deep water is the same, and as both deep and shallow water have the same density the buoyant effect is the same.

Q. What were the dates of the World War?

A. It began July 23, 1914 and lasted actually until the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1918, a total of four years, three months and 11 days. Technically it did not end until the promulgation of the peace treaty. The United States officially entered the war April 6, 1917.

Morris Segal's store at 11 Railroad Arcade was entered last night by a party of wire screen off a rear window, which is about 14 feet above the ground. The following articles are missing, according to Mr. Segal's report to Sergeant P. A. McAvoy: 14 boxes of men's socks, one-half dozen in each box; 6 pairs of kid gloves, three scarfs, 6 pairs of gloves, 8 cards of bow ties, one-half dozen in each box; 1 card of collar buttons, containing two dozen buttons; 4 dozen four-in-hand ties; 1 shirt, 1 brown lumber jacket, 1 belt, 7 pairs of shoes, black and tan; 2 dozen bow ties, several pairs of trousers and \$10 to \$12 in cash.

Nathan Ratner of the Burrill hotel reported at 5:25 last evening that his topcoat was stolen.

Hyman Rubin of 103 Winthrop street reported that he had a soda fountain in a vacant store at 355 Arch street and boys damaged it.

Mrs. Stanley Skivot of 25 Concord street reported last evening the theft of \$31 from her home during the afternoon.

Mrs. Irene Feeney of the Day Nursery on Winter street reported that considerable damage was done to chairs and settees in the yard by boys.

TRUCK AND COUPE COLLIDE